

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT UK (NI)

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE SEEKS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN ASSEMBLY.

SUMMARY: NI CHIEF EXECUTIVE BRIAN FAULKNER MOVED ASSEMBLY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN EXECUTIVE IN JANUARY 24 SITTING. FAULKNER EMPHASIZED THAT EXECUTIVE CONSIDERED ITSELF RESPONSIBLE PRIMARILY TO ASSEMBLY NOT TO SECRETARY OF SITE. HE SAID STATE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IF GOOD BECAUSE OF RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE EXCELLENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT MACHINE AND EXCEPTIONAL HELP FROM HMG. HE PAID TRIBUTE TO ROLE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT PARTICULARLY FROM NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE. HE REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE'S JANUARY 21 SOCIAL-ECONOMIC STATEMENT OF AIMS AND PROMISED FULL STAFFING OUT BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND CONSULTATION WITH ASSEMBLY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES BEFORE PROGRAMME TOOK LEGISLATIVE FORM. HE CHALLENGED LOYALIST CRITICS TO OFFER SERIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE CONSTITUTION ACT AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND OPINED THAT PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WANT EXECUTIVE AND ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE GOOD GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF FURTHER SECTARIAN CONFRONTATIONS AND DISORDER. OTHER MINISTERS AND PRO-EXECUTIVE BACKBENCHERS SPOKE DURING DEBATE WHICH SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE

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JANUARY 30-31. FAULKNER'S SPEECH LAYS OUT THEMES EXECUTIVE

WILL BE USING IN ITS EFFORT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT IN ASSEMBLY AND
MORE IMPORT IN COUNTRY. END SUMMARY

1. NORTHERN IRELAND CHIEF EXECUTIVE (AND LEADER OF HOUSE)
BRIAN FAULKNER INTRODUCED MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN EXECUTIVE
AT JANUARY 24 ASSEMBLY SITTING: "THAT THIS ASSEMBLY
REPRESENTING AS IT DOES THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND BY
DEMOCRATIC GENERAL ELECTION WELCOMES THE RETURN OF SUBSTANTIAL
DEVOLVED POWERS TO AN ADMINISTRATION ANSWERABLE TO THE ASSEMBLY:
LOOKS TO THE EXECUTIVE TO PURSUE POLICIES WHICH WILL PROMOTE
THE PEACE, STABILITY AND PROGRESS OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY:
SUPPORTS AGREEMENTS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE USEFUL PROGRESS AND
COOPERATION BETWEEN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE IRISH REPUBLIC
WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS AND ESHRINING THE
PRINCIPLE OF COMMON CONSENT: AND CALLS UPON ALL SECTIONS OF
OPINION TO PURSUE THEIR OBJECTIVES HENCEFORTH THROUGH PEACEFUL
DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS ALONE".

2. PROPOSAL MOTION FAULKNER EMPHASIZED THAT EXECUTIVE WAS
PROPOSING CONFIDENCE MOTION TO SHOW IT CONSIDERED SELF
RESPONSIBLE FIRST OF ALL TO ASSEMBLY NOT TO SECRETARY OF
STATE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ARE DRAWN
FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE
RESPONSIBILITY PREVAILS SO EACH EXECUTIVE MEMBER WHO SPEAKS
IN DEBATE WOULD BE SPEAKING FOR ENTIRE EXECUTIVE.

3. STATE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WAS GOOD FAULKNER SAID DESPITE
ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES: UNEMPLOYMENT HAD FALLEN PROMOTION
OF NEW JOBS HAS RISEN AND NI WAS "IN SOME RESPECTS DISPLAYING
MORE ECONOMIC HEALTH AND ENERGY THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER PART OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM." THIS WAS THANKS TO THREE FACTORS:
DETERMINATION AND RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MACHINERY SECOND TO NONE AND "QUITE EXCEPTION SUPPORT FROM THE
UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT" -- SUPPORT TO WHICH NI WAS ENTITLED
BUT NEVERTHELESS VITAL. FOREIGN INVESTMENT FROM UK, NORTH
AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE WAS ALSO HELPFUL SAID FAULKNER AND
HE REGRETTED KIDNAPPING OF GERMAN CONSUL NIEDERMAYER.

4. ECONOMY DOES HAVE SERIOUS BLACKSPOTS - THE FALLING AWAY OF
THE HOUSING PROGRAM POISONING OF MANY ASPECTS OF LIFE BY
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VIOLENCE AND FRUITS THEREOF AND SERIOUS NATIONAL AND WORLD
ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH SHADOWS FUTURE HOPES.

5. FUTURE PLANS OF EXECUTIVE HAD BEEN SET FORTH IN JANUARY
21 STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AIMS WHICH WAS MANIFESTO
RATHER THAN DETAILED PROGRAM. SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD BE PARED
ONLY AFTER MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ADVICE FROM GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS AND FROM CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLY.

(COMMENT: ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE OF SELECTION AT JANUARY 24 SITTING TO APPOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES.)

6. FAULKNER ACCEPTED THAT CONFIDENCE OF ASSEMBLY MUST BE WON NOT BE DECLARATION OF INTENT BY BY CONVINCING ASSEMBLY AND COUNTRY THAT THEIR COURSE IS IN INTERESTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND ITS PEOPLE. BUT HE CHALLENGED CRITICS TO OFFER THEIR ALTERNATIVES: "VIRTUALLY EVERYONE OF JUDGMENT NOW AGREES THAT IS HAS BEEN A GREAT SOURCE OF WEAKNESS AND INSTABILITY TO NORTHERN IRELAND OVER HALF A CENTURY THAT ITS ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY REPRESENTING ONE-THIRD OF THE POPULATION HAS NOT PLAYED A COMMENSURATE PART IN THE LIFE AND AFFAIRS OF THE PROVINCE. WE CAN ARGUE UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME ABOUT WHOSE FAULT THAT HAS BEEN OVER ALL THOSE YEARS. WE CAN GO ON ATTRIBUTING MUTUAL BLAME UP TO AND BEYOND THE POINT WHERE THE REST OF THE WORLD GROWS SICK OF US. ALL I KNOW IS THAT WE HAVE NOW FOUND THE MEANS TO WORK TOGETHER. ARE WE NOW TO SAY TO THAT COMMUNITY -- DEMOCRACY IS SIMPLY MAJORITY RULE AND IF THAT MEANS YOU ARE TO SIT IN OPPOSITION FOR HALF A CENTURY MORE IT'S JUST TOO BAD? I ASK THIS OF THE OPPONENTS OF ALL THAT WE IN THIS EXECUTIVE REPRESENT: WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?"

7. FAULKNER ALSO ASKED ADVERSARIES WHAT THEY WOULD PUT IN PLACE OF CONSTITUTION ACT. "LET US HAVE THE INDEPENDENT ULSTER' UTOPIAS PROPERLY COSTED. LET US LEARN HOW TOTAL INTEGRATION IS TO BE PUSHED THROUGH AN UNWILLING WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT. LET US HEAR PRECISELY WHY A COUNCIL OF IRELAND TO WHICH POWERS WOULD BE DEVOLED ONLY WITH OUR CONSENT IN THIS ASSEMBLY IS SO INSIDIOUS WHILE SOMETHING DESCRIBED AS AN "AMALGAMATED IRELAND" IN WHICH PROTESTANT DOMINATION OF THE NORTH AND IRISH UNIFICATION ARE MIRACULOUSLY ACCOMPLISHED SIDE BY SIDE IS SUCH A CLEVER AND THOROUGHLY LOYALIST IDEA. LET US BE TOLD HOW TALK ABOUT DEFENDING DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IS TO BE RECONCILED WITH DARK UNCLASSIFIED

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THREATS ABOUT BLOOD AND BATTLE."

8. FAULKNER ASKED HOW VIOLENCE IN IRELAND COULD EVEN END WITHOUT NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION DEFENCE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND DEFENDED COUNCIL OF IRELAND AS MEANS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE SUCH COOPERATION WHILE PROTECTING NORTHERN INTERESTS THROUGH UNANIMITY RULE LIKE THAT USED IN EEC. "I AM IN NO WAY FEARFUL THAT IN A COUNCIL OF IRELAND THE TRADITION I REPRESENT WILL BE SUBMERGED. INDEED THE REVESE WILL BE TRUE. OUR BASIC POSITION WILL BE A FACT WITH WHICH ANY GOVERNMENT IN DUBLIN WILL HAVE TO RECKON. OUR OPPONENTS HAVE NOTHING TO SET AGAINST THIS GAIN BUT THEIR OLD INVOCATIONS OF FEAR AND PREJUDICE."

9. FAULKNER SAID ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO MOTION AND TO EXECUTIVE WAS MORE CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY. PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

"CRYING OUT FOR LESS POLITICS AND MORE GOVERNMENT."

10. EXECUTIVE FAULKNER REMINDED ASSEMBLY HAS NO AUTHORITY OVER LAW AND ORDER AND WOULD NOT ANSWER FOR IT IN ASSEMBLY AND WOULD OFFER SECRETARY OF STATE ADVICE ONLY ON THOSE SECURITY ISSUES WHICH OVERLAP OR INVOLVE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

11. FAULKNER CONCLUDED THAT RESUMPTION OF CONSTRUCTIVE WORK IN STORMONT WOULD POINT WAY TO COMMUNITY OUTSIDE. "THEY DO NOT WANT TO SEE US I BELIEVE PRODUCING HOT AIR WITHOUT END VILIFYING AND TRADUCING EACH OTHER. THEY WANT US TO BEHAVE LIKE GROWN MEN AND WOMEN LIKE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND DEMOCRATS. THEY LOOK TO USE FOR PRINCIPLED GOVERNMENT AND EFFECTIVE FAIR-MINDED OPPOSITION. THEY DEMAND OF US GOOD AND JUST LAWS FIRM AND WELL DIRECTED ADMINISTRATION. WE MUST NOT FAIL THEM NOW."

12. DEBATE PROCEEDED IN SELF-IMPOSED ABSENCE OF ANTI-EXECUTIVE LOYALISTS WITH ALTERNATING SPEECHES BY PRO-EXECUTIVE BACKBENCHERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS. COMMERCE MINISTER JOHN HUME OUTLINED ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND EDUCATION MINISTER BASIL MCIVOR HIGHLIGHTED HIS PORTFOLIO DEBATE WAS ADJOURNED AND IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THROUGH SITTINGS OF JANUARY 30 31.

13. COMMENT: FAULKNERS SPEECH HIGHLIGHTED MAIN THEMESE OF EXECUTIVE AS IT SEEKS TO RALLY SUPPORT IN ASSEMBLY AND MORE IMPORTANTLY IN COUNTRY. EXECUTIVE IS REPRESENTED AS OFFERING UNCLASSIFIED

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GOOD GOVERNMENT WITH UK SUPPORT AND IRISH COOPERATION IN WHICH ALL ELEMENTS OF NORTHERN SOCIETY CAN PARTICIPATE AND FROM WHICH ALL CAN BENEFIT. LOYALIST ADVERSARIES ARE PORTRAYED AS OFFERING NOTHING BUT PROSPECT OF FURTHER DISORDER AND DIVISION. PENBERTHY

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